(b) if so, the reasons for the rejection/deferring decision on the GM Mustard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) For large scale trials and commercial release, approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee is mandatory. Based on the recommendation of the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its 27th Meeting held on 8th August, 2001 permitted M/s. Proagro Seeds Company India Ltd. to conduct large scale open field trials. Subsequently, the request of the company to allow for commercial release and marketing of transgenic mustard and seed production was considered by the GEAC in the 34th Meeting held on 7th November, 2002. The GEAC has decided to further examine the data submitted by the company.

FPIS by foreign industrialists

†2425. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign industrialists offered to set up Food Processing Industries in the country, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be set up under these offers; and

(c) the extent of foreign and domestic capital investments, targeted to be made in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) During last three years *i.e.* 1999, 2000 and 2001, 124 foreign investment proposals entailing foreign investment of Rs. 779 crores approx. have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country. Apart from these the proposed domestic investment intentions of Rs. 4685 crores approx. is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

envisaged in terms of 365 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda field and Letter of Intents issued for setting up of units in various sectors of food processing.

Transfer of Officials in Central Hindi Directorate

2426. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission has issued any orders according to which Government officials holding the posts for sanctioning financial aid/grants should be transferred within a fixed period;

(b) if so, whether this order is not being followed in the Central Hindi Directorate and the officials working on the posts for sanctioning financial aid/grants to institutions are holding these posts continuously for the last 7-8 years; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government, to ensure compliance of aforesaid orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Central Vigilance Commission has issued orders on 15.4.99 wherein it has directed that rotational transfers be made at periodic intervals of officers holding sensitive posts.

(b) and (c) Yes, the order is being followed by the Central Hindi Directorate, a subordinate office of the Department of Secondary & Higher Education. Two officials who have been dealing with grants for long have been transferred recently. There are no other officials in the financial aid section who have been working there continuously for the last seven-eight years.

Qualifications of persons writing text books

2427. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and educational qualifications of persons who have been entrusted with the task of writing the NCERT textbooks;